



# Time for proactive admissions, college readiness coursework

The South Dakota Department of Education will again use SD-STARS for two initiatives: proactive admissions and college readiness coursework.

## Proactive admissions

Qualifying South Dakota public high school seniors will receive a letter from the department alerting them that they have met criteria for guaranteed general acceptance into the state's six public universities and four technical institutes.

Guaranteed general acceptance is automatic eligibility for admission based on Smarter Balanced test and/or ACT scores. South Dakota students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the English language arts and math portions of the 11th grade Smarter Balanced test and/or an ACT composite score of 18 or higher (South Dakota School of Mines & Technology requires 18 in English; 20 in math) earn guaranteed general acceptance into the South Dakota public university or technical institute of their choice. General acceptance means a student is accepted into the university or technical institute, though some majors may have additional conditions.

Eligible students should receive the letters at their primary home addresses in mid-October. Students who qualify for proactive admissions must still complete their application for admission,

pay the application fee and submit their official high school transcript to the school(s) of their choice by Dec. 1 to take advantage of guaranteed general acceptance. After Dec. 1, students may still apply, but their acceptance is no longer guaranteed.

Students are encouraged to ask their school counselor or principal if their high school is participating in College Application Week, a special week each fall during which application fees are waived! This year, College Application Week is Oct. 29-Nov. 2.

## College readiness coursework

South Dakota Board of Regents requirements for students to enroll in college-level coursework are as follows:

- 11th grade Smarter Balanced test scores at Level 3 or 4 in English and math
- ACT English subscore of 18 or higher; math subscore of 20 or higher subscore

Students who do not meet these criteria must take what the Board of Regents calls "remedial" coursework, for which they receive no credit and must pay full cost. However, South Dakota students have a unique opportunity to avoid this remedial coursework at the college level by

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## Top reports for 2018-19 school year

The following SD-STARS reports have been accessed the most by users in schools and districts, from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.

Report Name	Count
EN.003.01-A – Student Profile	2,310
AS.005.01-A – Student Longitudinal Achievement	2,287
AS.003.02-A – Assessment Detail Results	1,755
AS.001.01-A – Achievement Cut Score	1,691
EN.001.00-X – Enrollment Demographics	1,458
AS.007.01-A – Assessment Feedback Report	1,344
AT.002.00-A – Student Attendance List	978
AS.002.01-A – ACT Stoplight	928
AT.001.00-X – Attendance Demographics	676
EW.001.00-A – Early Warning	472
AS.006.01-A – Student Achievement Roster	455

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## About Us:

South Dakota STARS Connections is a bi-monthly publication for South Dakota administrators and teachers, produced by the South Dakota Department of Education. This publication is intended to communicate news and events regarding the South Dakota Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (SD-STARS), our Statewide Longitudinal Data System. To view an online edition of this newsletter, go to [doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx). Email story ideas or questions to [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

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# SD-STARS team joins Road Show for Accountability and Data

An article in August's STARS Connection newsletter discussed a series of SD-STARS regional trainings and some training on the new Report Card. After further consideration, the Department of Education has made some changes.

Instead of offering regional trainings focused primarily on SD-STARS, this fall the department has organized the Accountability and Data Road Show to include Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Watertown. The SD-STARS team is excited to support districts by presenting two breakout sessions during the road show. We will also be available to provide general one-on-one support during the entire training.

In the morning session, participants will dive into the new Report Card, gain insights on how to review the data and learn tips for helping parents and community members make sense of this new Report Card. The afternoon will include breakout sessions. Individuals will be able to rotate from one session to another. Breakout sessions may include:

### Comprehensive Needs Assessment

What is it and how do we work through it?

### SD-STARS reports

SD-STARS contains more than just the Accountability Report Card. Attend this session to explore non-ARC reports in SD-STARS that provide useful information to administrators and teachers throughout the year.

### Data dig

Learn how to find answers to data-related questions using data found in the Accountability Report Card, SD-STARS reports, or other sources. We will also discuss how these answers lead to creating goals and action plans for improved outcomes.

To register and get updated information, find the registration links below.



## Registration links: Accountability & Data Road Show

Wed. Nov. 7, 8:30am to 4pm – Fort Pierre, AmericInn  
<https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12464>

Thurs. Nov. 8, 8:30am to 4pm – Rapid City, Ramkota Hotel  
<https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12466>

Wed. Nov. 14, 8:30am to 4pm – Brandon, Holiday Inn Express  
<https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12467>

Thurs. Nov. 15, 8:30am to 4pm – Watertown, Event Center  
<https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12469>

# No strand data for SDSA

This is the first year of reporting for the South Dakota Science Assessment.

Strand data will not display in reports found in SD-STARS. Reports such as Assessment Detail Results, Student Longitudinal Achievement and Assessment Feedback will display science scale scores and proficiency levels, but these reports

will not display strand results when science is selected for school year 2017-18. Users will still see claim data display for Smarter Balanced for the subjects of English language arts and math.

If you have any questions about this, please contact [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

# New data in SD-STARS

New data were recently loaded into SD-STARS.

The MSAA test, which is the state alternate assessment for math and English language arts, and the science alternate assessment are now in SD-STARS. MSAA results will show in reports. However, the science alternate assessment won't show quite yet. Since it is a new assessment, the SD-STARS team is currently enhancing reports to display the new science test. This work should be completed by November.

SD-STARS also has new ACT data that includes tests taken during summer 2018. Users will be able to see the new data by running the ACT Spotlight report.

Finally, fall or beginning of the year (BOY) local assessment data for AIMSweb 1.0 and DIBELSNext are available for districts that returned a permission form. Fall or BOY data should be viewable in the local assessment suite of reports.

If you have any questions, please contact [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

## STARS Certified Trainers

STARS Certified Trainers have been trained by Department of Education staff on SD-STARS and are kept up-to-date on system developments and new reports. Districts can contact trainers to request training at the district's cost.

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## Proactive admissions, remedial coursework

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completing it while still in high school. The South Dakota Department of Education offers "college readiness coursework" at low cost to those who are eligible.

"Students can complete the coursework either online through the South Dakota Virtual School, or a district can offer the course with a highly qualified math or English teacher supporting the students," said Becky Nelson, the department's director of learning and instruction.

Students who score at a Level 2 on the 11th grade Smarter Balanced test in English and/or math or have an ACT English subscore below 18 and/or math subscore below 20 will receive a letter at their primary home address from the Secretary of Education in mid-October indicating that they may access the college readiness coursework.

### SD-STARS report for districts

To help districts identify which students received the proactive admissions and/or college readiness coursework letters, there is a report in SD-STARS called S0.002.00-A – Proactive Admission and Remedial Coursework. The report provides a list of students who were considered and those who qualified for proactive admissions and/or college readiness coursework. The report is found under the "Student Outcomes Report" category in the Reports menu within SD-STARS. Users with district superintendent, district management and district assessment, school principal, and school management permissions will be able to see the report. This report will be updated for the 2018-19 school year in mid-October, about the time the letters are sent.

The report helps users answer questions like, "Which students qualify for proactive

admissions?" or "Which students qualify for college readiness coursework?" It contains a student list with test scores and indicators for whether a student qualifies for proactive admissions or college readiness coursework. Addresses are included to show where the letters were sent.

It is possible for a student to receive both proactive admissions and college readiness coursework letters. This happens when a student has an ACT composite score of 18 or higher but either their ACT English subscore is below 18 and/or their ACT math subscore is below 20.

### Online resources

For more information on proactive admissions, visit <http://sdmylife.com/prepping-for-college/proactive-admissions>. For Information on the college readiness coursework, visit <http://sdmylife.com/prepping-for-college/college-readiness-courses>.

# Accountability pre-appeal window opening soon



It is that time of year again, when the accountability Report Card is released. Below are a couple things to consider in the next two months.

## Timeline

With the transition to the new Every Student Succeeds Act, the amount of new data that will be included pushed back the time of the data release. Below are a few key dates districts should know.

*Oct. 19-29*

Districts review and validate the Report Card data in SD-STARS. During this pre-appeal period, if data errors are discovered, this is the time to fix them. The Department of Education recommends that districts have a team of people review the Report Card and assist with the data review process.

*Nov. 15-19*

Districts share their Report Card data with key stakeholders, including boards of education. The public Report Card website goes live on Nov. 20, 5 p.m. CST.

*Nov. 21-Dec. 5*

Districts can submit formal appeals during this time, after which, the department will make decisions and, when necessary, update the Report Card.

*Dec. 17*

Final version of the 2017-18 Report Card released.

## Private vs. public Report Cards

There are two versions of the Report Card: private and public. The private Report Card can be found internally in SD-STARS. It contains personally identifiable information via student rosters and unsuppressed aggregate data in tables and graphs that must not be released to the public. In other words, the private Report Card is only to be viewed by approved district and school users of SD-STARS with the appropriate permissions. Publicly reporting information from the private Report Card could violate the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA.

The public Report Card contains information that can be freely shared with the public because the data in the public Report Card are suppressed for small group size and do not contain student-level data, making it FERPA-compliant. The public Report Card in prior years was a PDF. This year, the public Report Card will be an interactive public website. The website URL will be shared with districts once available.

## Accountability permissions

Just like in prior years, the private Report Card will be available in SD-STARS to users who have accountability permissions. There are two levels of accountability permissions: school or district. The district-level permission should be used when a user needs to view reports which include student lists for the entire

district. If a school-level user – such as a principal – needs to see the Report Card for only a specific school, then the school-level accountability permission would be appropriate. The STARS Account Manager in your district can assign users permissions.

Over the last month, the SD-STARS team has contacted each district, reminding them about updating permissions. Since the accountability permission is a manual permission, there may be users who no longer need access to the Report Card and therefore need their accountability permission removed. There may also be new users who now need to see the Report Card and will therefore need to be assigned the accountability permission. SAMS who have questions about this process should contact [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

## SD-STARS accountability reports unavailable

In SD-STARS, districts can access various SD-STARS reports that look at accountability data, such as AC.015.00-X - Proficiency by Grade. These reports are currently unavailable to users as work on the 2017-18 Report Card is underway. Once the Report Card data are finalized, these reports will again be available for users. This should happen in late November.

## IMPORTANT

## Common Mistakes

A common mistake districts make is printing the wrong version of the Report Card. If printing the Report Card to share with school boards, parents or other stakeholders, districts must use the **public** Report Card



## 2018-19 STARS Advisory Group

The STARS Advisory Group gives districts a voice in discussions on possible changes to, and the future of, SD-STARS. This group positively impacts SD-STARS and works to improve the partnership and communication among the department's SD-STARS team, other department staff and districts. Areas of discussion include new data sources, new reports, enhancements to current reports, changes to the SD-STARS portal and district training and support. For more information, please contact the SD-STARS team at [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

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# Ask the Experts

## **How do I get to the Report Card?**

The 2017-18 Accountability Report Card is not yet available. However, on Oct. 19, district and school users with the accountability permission in SD-STARS will be able to see the private Report Card in SD-STARS.

At that time, users will be able to access the private Report Card, by selecting "ESSA Report Card" from the dropdown list under "Accountability." A user will then see a screen that contains either a single school's name, if he/she has school accountability access, or a list of schools plus the district, if a user has district accountability access. Click on the name of the school to see that school's Report Card or the name of the district to access the district Report Card.

Once in the Report Card, teal tabs will appear in a menu bar across the top. Click on the teal tabs to move from one indicator to the next.

## **My district uses DIBELS or AIMSweb 1.0. How can I get the data in SD-STARS?**

In addition to the statewide summative assessments offered to all public districts, many schools use assessments provided by other vendors to find benchmark results multiple times throughout the school year. SD-STARS has created reports that work with assessment data provided by AIMSweb 1.0, DIBELS.net and DIBELS – University of Oregon. If your district uses one of these vendors, a permissions form for the vendor is available in the Training Center on SD-STARS. Simply fill out the form, scan a copy to [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us) and follow other directions stated on the form.

We are working on adding aimswebPlus and NWEA data into SD-STARS. As reports for these assessments are developed, we will provide information on requesting permission for these assessments as well.

## **Can school board members have access to SD-STARS?**

Every district must follow security policies and practices that align with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. For this reason, certain information is only accessible to educators who have a stated need to see student-level or unsuppressed data. The security in SD-STARS is controlled by districts, who decide what permissions are given to each district- and school-level user. For example, teachers will only see students in their classroom, but principals would see all students in their schools.

In general, school board members do not have a need to see student-level or unsuppressed data. Instead, school board members and other members of the public can access public data, as found in the public Report Card on the Department of Education website at <http://doe.sd.gov/>. Or, a district can share suppressed data.

Two useful resources provide more information about FERPA. The South Dakota Department of Education provides general information about FERPA at <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sims-ferpa.aspx>. The U.S. Department of Education provides the latest information on FERPA and student privacy through the Privacy Technical Assistance Center at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>.

